

REMARKS

Claims 1, 11 and 20-28 are pending in this application, claim 11 having been withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 1, 25 and 28 are amended. No new matter is added.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 20-25, 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 02-254013 to Akatsu (hereinafter "Akatsu") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,544,458 to Fisher et al. (hereinafter "Fisher"); claim 21 is rejected over Akatsu in view of Fisher and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,676,898 to Yokota et al. (hereinafter "Yokota"); and claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Akatsu in view of Fisher and further in view of JP 2002-096633 to Hashimoto. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

None of the applied references teaches or would have rendered obvious an adhesive applying step that comprises the steps recited in claims 1 and 28. Also, none of the applied references teaches or would have rendered obvious a forming step, wherein a predetermined polymer material is injected into the injection mold to fill the cavities of the injection mold so that the covering member and the positioning member or the holding portion are formed, whereby the covering member and at least one of the positioning member and the holding portion are connected to each other by a material flow connection portion formed by the polymer material flow cavity, the polymer material flow cavity and material flow connection portion being located at the position other than the adhesive connection area, and wherein the covering member and the positioning member or the holding portion except for the material flow connection portion are adhered via the respective adhesive to the window pane thereby to be fixed, as recited in independent claims 1 and 28. Because the polymer material flow cavity is provided at a position other than the predetermined adhesive connection area, the material flow connection portion being adhered to a window pane can be avoided and the material flow connection portion can be easily removed after the forming step.

The Office Action acknowledges that Akatsu does not disclose an adhesive applying step that "is added continuously with a predetermined adhesion connection area including the covering member and either the positioning member or the holding portion." Further, Akatsu does not disclose a procedure to apply the adhesive, and thus does not disclose the steps of the adhesive applying step recited in claims 1 and 28.

Further, Fisher does not remedy Akatsu's deficiencies. Fisher does not disclose a procedure to apply the adhesive, and thus does not disclose the steps of the adhesive applying step recited in claims 1 and 28.

Fisher also does not disclose a material flow connection portion as recited in claims 1 and 28. Fisher merely discloses that "... it is preferred that application will be constrained to a linear path on frit layer 30 proximate peripheral edge" See, e.g., Fisher, col. 14, lines 62 and 63. That is, a primer layer is applied to an entire periphery of the window panel from a gasket 32 to a peripheral edge 28 of the window panel, as shown in for example, Figure 6. Figure 6 of Fisher also shows that the gasket 32 has a different type of hatching from a gasket 60 disposed along the peripheral edge of the glass. Accordingly, because the gaskets 32 and 60 are considered to be made from different materials individually, a material flow connection portion would be unnecessary.

Further, if a material flow connection portion was provided in Fisher, the material flow connection portion would be adhered to the primer layer applied to the entire periphery of the window panel, whereupon removal of the material flow connection portion would be difficult.

Fisher therefore discloses a construction in which a material flow connection portion is not provided. Accordingly, Fisher does not disclose the claimed material flow connection portion. Thus, the claimed invention would not have been achieved by the alleged combination of Akatsu and Fisher.

Further, one of ordinary skill would not have had any reason to modify Fisher to include a material flow connection portion. In fact, Fisher teaches away from a forming step that includes a material flow connection portion. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have had any reason to modify Akatsu to include the features of Fisher to achieve the claimed invention for the benefit of making the adhesion application step robotic and ultimately reducing application time, as alleged in the Office Action.

The other applied references do not remedy the above-described deficiencies of Akatsu and Fisher.

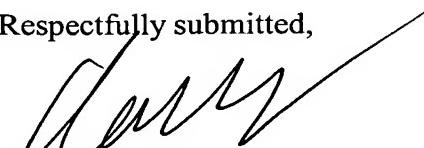
Thus, for at least these reasons, claims 1 and 28 are patentable over the applied references. Further, claims 20-27, which depend from claim 1, are also patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejections is thus respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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